

## **Legislative Bulletin.....April 28, 2009**

### **Contents:**

**H.Res. 340** - Expressing sympathy to the victims, families, and friends of the tragic act of violence at the American Civic Association in Binghamton, New York

**H.Res. 341** - Expressing heartfelt sympathy for the victims and families of the shootings in Geneva and Coffee Counties in Alabama, on March 10, 2009

**H.R. 1595** - To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3245 Latta Road in Rochester, New York, as the "Brian K. Schramm Post Office Building"

**H.Res. 342** - Expressing support for designation of May 2, 2009, as "Vietnamese Refugees Day"

**H.Res. 357** - Supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month 2009

**H.R. 1243** - To provide for the award of a gold medal on behalf of Congress to Arnold Palmer in recognition of his service to the Nation in promoting excellence and good sportsmanship in golf

**H.R. 46** - Family Self-Sufficiency Act of 2009

**H.Con.Res. 36** - Calling on the President and the allies of the United States to engage with officials of the Government of Iran to raise the case of Robert Levinson at every opportunity, urging officials of the Government of Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance to the family of Robert Levinson, and calling on the Government of Iran to share the results of its investigation into the disappearance of Robert Levinson with the Federal Bureau of Investigation

**H.Res. 76** - Mourning the horrific loss of life in January 2009 caused by a landslide in Guatemala and an earthquake in Costa Rica and expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should assist the affected people and communities

**H.Res. 109** - Supporting the mission and goals of 2009 National Crime Victims' Rights week to increase public awareness of the rights, needs, and concerns of victims and survivors of crime in the United States, and to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the enactment of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984

**H.Con.Res. 104** - Supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month

---

### **H.Res. 340—Expressing sympathy to the victims, families, and friends of the tragic act of violence at the American Civic Association in Binghamton, New York (*Rep. Hinchey, D-NY*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 28, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 340 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “Expresses its heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of the victims of the April 3, 2009, shooting in Binghamton, New York;

- “Conveys its gratitude to the city, county, State, and Federal officials and agencies whose quick and comprehensive response helped save lives and start the long healing process; and
- “Honors the American Civic Association for the services it provides to assist people from across the world who seek the American dream.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “On Friday April 3, 2009, the Nation experienced an appalling misfortune when a gunman entered the American Civic Association in Binghamton, New York, and murdered 13 and wounded 4 innocent people;
- “This act of violence created numerous secondary victims, including over 40 people who were in the building at the time, as well as friends and family of the deceased who are struggling to cope with the impact of this tragic act;
- “Many of the victims of this assault were residents of Binghamton, New York, in Broome County, New York, a close-knit, diverse community with a long history of welcoming people from all backgrounds, nationalities, and religions, as well as immigrants and visitors from abroad;
- “The American Civic Association in Binghamton, New York, has proudly served the community since 1935, assisting immigrants and refugees with counseling, resettlement, citizenship, family reunification, language skills, and other critical services that have played a vital role in the effort to secure the dreams of immigrants seeking legal citizenship;
- “Although the effects of this shooting will be felt for years to come, the Binghamton community will overcome this tragedy and re-emerge stronger than before and with renewed sense of unity, cooperation, and understanding.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 340 was introduced on April 21, 2009 and referred to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. On April 23, 2009 the committee held a mark-up and the legislation was ordered to be reported by unanimous consent.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution would not authorize any additional expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there’s no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable for H.Res. 340.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Bruce F. Miller, [bruce.miller@mail.house.gov](mailto:bruce.miller@mail.house.gov), (202)-226-9720.

---

**H.Res. 341—Expressing heartfelt sympathy for the victims and families of the shootings in Geneva and Coffee Counties in Alabama, on March 10, 2009  
(Rep. Bright, D-AL)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 28, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 341 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “Expresses its heartfelt sympathy for the victims and families of the shootings in Geneva and Coffee Counties in Alabama on March 10, 2009; and
- “Conveys its gratitude to the city and county officials, and all the police, fire, sheriff, and emergency medical teams who responded swiftly to the scene and helped prevent further violence.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “The communities of Geneva and Coffee Counties in Alabama have endured a tragic event in southeast Alabama that resulted in the loss of 10 lives and injuries to several others;
- “On March 10, 2009, a man fired at members of his family and other innocent bystanders throughout several towns in Geneva and Coffee Counties in Alabama;
- “The first responders, State Troopers of the Dothan Troopers Post, officers of the Geneva Police Department, officers of the Geneva County Sheriff's Department, and an officer of the Conservation and Natural Resources department pursued and eventually found the gunman deceased; and
- “The grieving and celebration of the lives of those lost in this senseless tragedy will be with the communities of Geneva and Coffee Counties for months and years to come.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 341 was introduced on April 21, 2009 and referred to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. On April 23, 2009 the committee held a mark-up and the legislation was ordered to be reported by unanimous consent.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution would not authorize any additional expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable for H.Res. 341.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Bruce F. Miller, [bruce.miller@mail.house.gov](mailto:bruce.miller@mail.house.gov), (202)-226-9720.

---

**H.R. 1595—To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3245 Latta Road in Rochester, New York, as the "Brian K. Schramm Post Office Building" (Rep. Lee, R-NY)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 28, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.R. 1595 would designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3245 Latta Road in Rochester, New York, as the "Brian K. Schramm Post Office Building".

**Additional Information:** Lance Corporal Brian Schramm, a life long resident of Greece New York, joined the U.S. Marine Corps shortly after his graduation from Olympia High School in 2001. While on his second tour of duty in Iraq, on October 15, 2004 at the age of 22 years old, he lost his life during an enemy attack. A scholarship fund in his memorial has been established and more information can be found at <http://www.brianschramm.com/>.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 1595 was introduced on March 18, 2009 and referred to the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform. The committee held a mark-up on April 2, 2009 and the bill was ordered to be reported by unanimous consent.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy is provided.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** A CBO score for H.R. 1595 is unavailable, but the only costs associated with a U.S. post office renaming are those for sign and map changes, none of which significantly affect the federal budget.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** Although no committee report citing constitutional authority is available, Article I, Section 8, Clause 7 of the Constitution grants Congress the authority to establish Post Offices and post roads.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Bruce F. Miller, [bruce.miller@mail.house.gov](mailto:bruce.miller@mail.house.gov), (202)-226-9720.

---

## **H.Res. 342—Expressing support for designation of May 2, 2009, as "Vietnamese Refugees Day" (Rep. Cao, R-LA)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 28, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 342 would resolve that the House of Representatives:

- “That the House of Representatives supports the designation of ‘Vietnamese Refugees Day’ in order to commemorate the arrival of Vietnamese refugees in the United States, to document their harrowing experiences, and subsequent achievements in their new homeland, to honor the host countries that welcomed the boat people, and to recognize the voluntary agencies and nongovernmental organizations that facilitated their resettlement, adjustment, and assimilation into mainstream society in the United States.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “The Library of Congress’ Asian Division together with many Vietnamese-American organizations across the United States will sponsor a ‘Journey to Freedom: A Boat People Retrospective’ symposium on May 2, 2009;
- “Vietnamese refugees were asylum-seekers from Communist-controlled Vietnam;
- “Many Vietnamese escaped in boats during the late 1970s, after the Vietnam War and by land across the Cambodian, Laotian, and Thai borders into refugee camps in Thailand;
- “Over 2,000,000 Vietnamese boat people and other refugees are now spread across the world, in the United States, Australia, Canada, France, England, Germany, China, Japan, Hong Kong, South Korea, the Philippines, and other nations;
- “Over half of all overseas Vietnamese are Vietnamese-Americans, and Vietnamese-Americans are the fourth-largest Asian American group in the United States;
- “May 2, 2009, would be an appropriate day to designate as ‘Vietnamese Refugees Day’.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 342 was introduced on April 21, 2009 and referred to the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee. On April 23, 2009 the committee held a mark-up and the legislation was ordered to be reported by unanimous consent.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution would not authorize any additional expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable for H.Res. 342.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Bruce F. Miller, [bruce.miller@mail.house.gov](mailto:bruce.miller@mail.house.gov), (202)-226-9720.

---

---

## **H.Res. 357 – Supporting the Goals and Ideals of Financial Literacy Month (Hinojosa, D-TX)**

**Order of Business:** H.Res. 357 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 28, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.Res. 357 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month, including raising public awareness about financial education;
- “Recognizes the importance of managing personal finances, increasing personal savings, and reducing personal debt in the United States; and
- “Requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities with the goal of increasing financial literacy rates for individuals of all ages and walks of life.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “Personal financial literacy is essential to ensure that individuals are prepared to make informed financial choices, as well as manage money, credit, debt, and risk and become responsible workers, heads of households, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and citizens;
- “Personal financial management skills and lifelong habits begin to develop during childhood, making it all the more important to support youth financial education;
- “A 2008 survey of high school seniors conducted by the Jump\$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy revealed that students in 2008 answered correctly only 48.3 percent of the survey's questions, a decline from those posted by students in 2006, who correctly answered 52.4 percent of the questions;

- “84 percent of undergraduates had at least one credit card in 2008, up from 76 percent in 2004, with the average number of cards increasing to 4.6 according to Sallie Mae's National Study of Usage Rates and Trends 2009 entitled ‘How Undergraduate Students Use Credit Cards’;
- “Personal saving as a percentage of disposable personal income was 4.2 percent in February, compared with 4.4 percent in January, and up from a 12-month average of 1.7 percent in 2008, according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis;
- “The average baby boomer has only \$50,000 in savings apart from equity in their homes, according to the Federal Reserve Board's Survey of Consumer Finances for 2007;
- “Studies show that as many as 10,000,000 households in the United States are ‘unbanked’ or are without access to mainstream financial products and services;
- “Public, community-based, and private sector organizations throughout the United States are working to increase financial literacy rates for Americans of all ages and walks of life through a range of outreach efforts, including media campaigns, websites, and one-on-one financial counseling for individuals;
- “Bankers across the United States taught savings skills to young people on April 21, 2009, during Teach Children to Save Day, which was started by the American Bankers Association Education Foundation in April of 1997 and has now helped more than 72,000 bankers teach savings skills to nearly 3,200,000 young people;
- “Staff from America's credit unions are making presentations to young people at local schools on financial topics such as student loans, balancing a checkbook, and auto loans during National Credit Union Youth Week, April 19-25, 2009;
- “More than 100 Federal agencies have collaborated on a website, [www.consumer.gov](http://www.consumer.gov), which helps consumers shop for a mortgage or auto loan, understand and reconcile credit card statements and utility bills, choose savings and retirement plans, compare health insurance policies, and understand their credit report and how it affects their ability to get credit and on what terms; and
- “Members of the United States House of Representatives established the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus (FELC) in February 2005 to provide a forum for interested Members of Congress to review, discuss and recommend financial and economic literacy policies, legislation, and programs, collaborate with the private sector, and nonprofit and community-based organizations, and organize and promote financial literacy legislation, seminars, and events, such as ‘Financial Literacy Month’ in April, 2009, and the annual ‘Financial Literacy Day Fair’ on April 30, 2009.”

**Committee Action:** H.Res. 357 was introduced on April 21, 2009 and referred to the House Financial Services Committee, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution would not authorize any additional expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** A Committee Report citing compliance with rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Brad Watson, [brad.watson@mail.house.gov](mailto:brad.watson@mail.house.gov), (202) 226-9719.

---

## **H.R. 1243 – Arnold Palmer Gold Medal Act (*Baca, D-CA*)**

**Order of Business:** H.R. 1243 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 28, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 1243 requires the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President Pro Tempore of the Senate to make appropriate arrangements for the presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a gold medal to Arnold Palmer.

The resolution authorizes the Secretary of the Treasury to strike and sell duplicates in bronze of such a medal. The resolution requires that all proceeds from sale of duplicate bronze medals be deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

The resolution lists the following findings:

- “Arnold Palmer is a world famous golf professional, a highly successful business executive, a prominent advertising spokesman, a devoted husband, father, and grandfather, and a man with a common touch that has made him one of the most popular and accessible public figures in history;
- “Arnold Palmer amassed 92 championships in professional competition of national or international stature by the end of 1993, 62 of which came on the Professional Golf Association Tour;
- “Arnold Palmer's magnetic personality and unfailing sense of kindness and thoughtfulness have endeared him to millions throughout the world;
- “Arnold Palmer has been the recipient of countless honors including virtually every national award in golf and both the Hickok Athlete of the Year and Sports Illustrated's Sportsman of the Year awards, and he was chosen Athlete of the Decade for the 1960s in a national Associated Press poll;
- “Arnold Palmer has received numerous honors outside the world of sports, including the Patriot Award of the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, the Golden Plate award of the American Academy of Achievement, and the United States Navy Memorial Lone Sailor Award;
- “Arnold Palmer was honored by the United States Golf Association with the opening of the Arnold Palmer Center for Golf History on June 3rd 2008;
- “Arnold Palmer served his country for 3 years in the United States Coast Guard and was among those chosen to address the Joint Session of Congress on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the birth of President Dwight D. Eisenhower;



- “Arnold Palmer served as Honorary National Chairman of the March of Dimes Birth Defects Foundation for 20 years and played a major role in the fund-raising drive that led to the creation of the Arnold Palmer Hospital for Children in Orlando and the Latrobe Area Hospital Charitable Foundation in his Western Pennsylvania hometown; and
- “Arnold Palmer remains active in tournament golf, although he retired from competition in the major championships on April 14, 2002, when he played the last of his 48 Masters Tournaments, where he was given an emotional standing ovation as he finished the 18th hole.”

**Committee Action:** H.R. 1243 was introduced on March 2, 2009 and referred to the House Financial Services Committee, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** No CBO score exists, but such coin-minting legislation usually yields some revenue for the federal government.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** A Committee Report citing compliance with rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Brad Watson, [brad.watson@mail.house.gov](mailto:brad.watson@mail.house.gov), (202) 226-9719

## **H.R. 46 – Family Self-Sufficiency Act of 2009 (Biggert, R-IL)**

**Order of Business:** H.R. 46 is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 28, 2009 under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill.

**Summary:** H.R. 46 allows payment of an administrative fee, by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, to public housing agencies, to cover the cost of administering family self-sufficiency programs. The bill sets a payment equal to the cost of employing one full-time family self-sufficiency coordinator for a public housing agency serving 25 or more participating families. The bill allows an additional fee to cover the cost of a second coordinator if the public housing agency has 75 or more participating families, and a third coordinator if it has 125 or more participating families.

**Committee Action:** H.R. 46 was introduced on January 6, 2009, and referred to the House Financial Services Committee, which took no official action.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** No CBO score is available.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No CBO score is available citing compliance with the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** A Committee Report citing compliance with rules regarding earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits is not available.

**Constitutional Authority:** A committee report citing constitutional authority is unavailable.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Brad Watson, [brad.watson@mail.house.gov](mailto:brad.watson@mail.house.gov), (202) 226-9719.

---

**H.Con.Res. 36—Calling on the President and the allies of the United States to engage with officials of the Government of Iran to raise the case of Robert Levinson at every opportunity, urging officials of the Government of Iran to fulfill their promises of assistance to the family of Robert Levinson, and calling on the Government of Iran to share the results of its investigation into the disappearance of Robert Levinson with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (*Wexler, D-FL*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 28, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 36 resolves that the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring):

- “Commends the Embassy of Switzerland in Tehran and the Government of Switzerland for the ongoing assistance to the United States Government and to the family of Robert Levinson, particularly during the visit by Christine Levinson and other relatives to Iran in December 2007;
- “Expresses appreciation for efforts by Iranian officials to ensure the safety of the family of Robert Levinson during their December 2007 visit to Iran, as well as for the promise of continued assistance;
- “Urges the Government of Iran, as a humanitarian gesture, to intensify its cooperation on the case of Robert Levinson with the Embassy of Switzerland in Tehran and to share the results of its investigation into the disappearance of Robert Levinson with the Federal Bureau of Investigation;
- “Urges the President and the allies of the United States to engage with officials of the Government of Iran to raise the case of Robert Levinson at every opportunity, notwithstanding other serious disagreements the United States Government has had with the Government of Iran on a broad array of issues, including human rights, the nuclear program of Iran, the Middle East peace process, regional stability, and international terrorism; and

- “Expresses sympathy to the family of Robert Levinson during this trying period.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “Whereas United States citizen Robert Levinson is a retired agent of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, a resident of Florida, the husband of Christine Levinson, and father of their 7 children;
- “Robert Levinson traveled from Dubai to Kish Island, Iran, on March 8, 2007;
- “After traveling to Kish Island and checking into the Hotel Maryam, he disappeared on March 9, 2007;
- “Neither his family nor the United States Government has received further information on his fate or whereabouts;
- “March 9, 2009 marks the second anniversary of the disappearance of Robert Levinson;
- “The Government of Switzerland, which has served as Protecting Power for the United States in the Islamic Republic of Iran in the absence of diplomatic relations between the United States Government and the Government of Iran since 1980, has continuously pressed the Government of Iran on the case of Robert Levinson and lent vital assistance and support to the Levinson family during their December 2007 visit to Iran;
- “Officials of the Government of Iran promised their continued assistance to the relatives of Robert Levinson during the visit of the family to the Islamic Republic of Iran in December 2007; and
- “The President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, stated during an interview with NBC News broadcast on July 28, 2008, that officials of the Government of Iran were willing to cooperate with the Federal Bureau of Investigation in the search for Robert Levinson.”

**Committee Action:** H.Con.Res. 36 was introduced on February 3, 2009 and referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, which marked up the resolution on March 25, 2009 and reported it, as amended, out of committee.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution would not authorize any additional expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there’s no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Natalie Farr; [natalie.farr@mail.house.gov](mailto:natalie.farr@mail.house.gov) 202-226-0718.

---

**H.Res. 76— Mourning the horrific loss of life in January 2009 caused by a landslide in Guatemala and an earthquake in Costa Rica and expressing the sense of Congress that the United States should assist the affected people and communities (Burton, R-IN)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 28, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 76 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Mourns the terrible loss of life caused by the landslide that occurred on January 4, 2009, in Guatemala and the earthquake on January 8, 2009, in Costa Rica;
- “Expresses its deepest condolences to the families of the many victims; and
- “Applauds the prompt humanitarian responses to these natural disasters by the Governments of Guatemala and Costa Rica; and
- “It is the sense of the House of Representatives that it should be the policy of the United States--
  - “In collaboration with the Government of Guatemala, the Government of Costa Rica, humanitarian organizations, and multilateral development banks in the region, to immediately assist as appropriate the Governments of Guatemala and Costa Rica in humanitarian and reconstruction efforts from the January 4, 2009, landslide and the January 8, 2009, earthquake;
  - “To continue technical assistance to Central American governments in order to strengthen their capacity at the national, provincial, and local levels in the area of disaster management coordination and preparedness, including implementing information and communications systems to help with the response to natural disasters; and
  - “To work closely with the governments of these countries to improve disaster mitigation techniques and compliance among all key sectors of their societies.”

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “On January 4, 2009, millions of tons of earth fell onto a road in the Alta Verapaz area north of Guatemala City, Guatemala;
- “It is suspected that a geological fault triggered the movement of earth, sending 10,000,000 tons of mud and rock down a hillside onto a road that runs from San Cristobal Verapaz to Chicaman, north of Guatemala City;
- “At least 38 people have been confirmed dead and up to 60 may be missing, many of whom are coffee workers in the region;
- “Rescue organizations, volunteers, and agencies from throughout Guatemala had been working at the site until danger of another landslide shut down the operation;
- “On January 8, 2009, at 1:21, a 6.1 magnitude earthquake shook the Capital region of San Jose, Costa Rica, including the areas of Sarapiquí, Varablanca, and Poasito;
- “The earthquake's epicenter was 20 miles from San Jose at a depth of 21.7 miles and the shaking continued for 40 seconds;

- “20 Costa Ricans have been confirmed dead, over 100 have been treated for injuries, and up to 17 may be missing, including many buried by resulting landslides;
- “518 homes have been destroyed to the point where they are uninhabitable, 26 kilometers of road are unusable, and 61 communities have been affected;
- “Roads, businesses, government buildings, and the popular tourist sites at the Poas Volcano and the La Paz waterfalls have been severely damaged; and
- “Guatemala and Costa Rica have been frequently impacted by significant natural disasters including those in the aftermath of Hurricane Stan in Guatemala in 2005 that led to hundreds of deaths.”

**Committee Action:** H. Res. 76 was introduced on January 21, 2009 and referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, which marked up the resolution on March 25, 2009 and reported it, as amended, out of committee.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution would not authorize any additional expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there’s no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Natalie Farr; [natalie.farr@mail.house.gov](mailto:natalie.farr@mail.house.gov) 202-226-0718.

**H.Res. 109— Supporting the mission and goals of 2009 National Crime Victims’ Rights week to increase public awareness of the rights, needs, and concerns of victims and survivors of crime in the United States, and to commemorate the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the enactment of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (*Costa, D-CA*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 28, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Res. 109 resolves that the House of Representatives:

- “Supports the mission and goals of 2009 National Crime Victims' Rights Week to increase public awareness of the impact of crime on victims and survivors, and of the constitutional and statutory rights and needs;

- “Recognizes the 25th anniversary of the enactment of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984; and
- “Directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Office for Victims of Crime within the Office of Justice Programs of the Department of Justice.

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “25,000,000 individuals in the United States are victims of crime each year, including over 6,000,000 victims of violent crime;
- “A just society acknowledges the impact of crime on individuals, families, and communities by ensuring that rights, resources, and services are available to help rebuild lives;
- “Although our Nation has steadily expanded rights, protections, and services for victims of crime, too many victims are still not able to realize the hope and promise of these gains;
- “Our Nation must do more to ensure that services are available for underserved segments of the population, including crime victims with disabilities, victims with mental illness, and victims who are teenagers, elderly, or from urban and rural areas or communities of color;
- “Observing victims' rights and treating victims with dignity and respect serves the public interest by engaging victims in the justice system, inspiring respect for public authorities, and promoting confidence in public safety;
- “The people of the United States recognize that we make our homes, neighborhoods, and communities safer and stronger by serving victims of crime and ensuring justice for all;
- “2009 marks the 25th anniversary of the enactment of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (‘VOCA’), the hallmark of the Federal Government's recognition of its commitment to supporting rights and services for victims of all types of crime through the establishment of the Crime Victims Fund, that is paid for by criminal fines and penalties, rather than by taxpayers' dollars;
- “Since its inception, the Crime Victims Fund has collected more than \$9,000,000,000 from offender fines and penalties to be used exclusively to help victims of crime;
- “VOCA supports direct assistance and financial compensation to more than 4,000,000 victims of crime every year;
- “VOCA's imaginative transformation of offender fines into programs of victim rehabilitation has inspired similar programs throughout the worldwide crime victims' movement;
- “The theme of 2009 National Crime Victims' Right Week, celebrated April 26, 2009, through May 2, 2009, is ‘25 Years of Rebuilding Lives: Celebrating the Victims of Crime Act’, which highlights VOCA's significant achievements and contributions in advancing rights and services for all crime victims; and
- “National Crime Victims' Rights Week provides an opportunity for the Nation to strive to reach the goal of justice for all by ensuring that all victims are afforded legal rights and provided with assistance to face the financial, physical, spiritual, psychological, and social impact of crime.”

**Committee Action:** H. Res. 109 was introduced on January 21, 2009 and referred to the House Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, which took no further official action.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution would not authorize any additional expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.

**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?:** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Natalie Farr; [natalie.farr@mail.house.gov](mailto:natalie.farr@mail.house.gov) 202-226-0718.

---

---

## **H.Con.Res. 104— Supporting the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month (*Baldwin, D-WI*)**

**Order of Business:** The resolution is scheduled to be considered on Tuesday, April 28, 2009, under a motion to suspend the rules and pass the resolution.

**Summary:** H.Con.Res. 104 resolves that it is the sense of Congress that:

- “National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month provides a special opportunity to educate the people of the United States about sexual violence and to encourage the prevention of sexual assault, the improved treatment of its survivors, and the prosecution of its perpetrators;
- “It is appropriate to properly acknowledge the more than 20,000,000 men and women who have survived sexual assault in the United States and salute the efforts of survivors, volunteers, and professionals who combat sexual assault;
- “National and community organizations and private sector supporters should be recognized and applauded for their work in promoting awareness about sexual assault, providing information and treatment to its survivors, and increasing the number of successful prosecutions of its perpetrators; and
- “Public safety, law enforcement, and health professionals should be recognized and applauded for their hard work and innovative strategies to increase the percentage of sexual assault cases that result in the prosecution and incarceration of the offenders;
- Congress strongly recommends national and community organizations, businesses in the private sector, colleges and universities, and the media to promote, through National

Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month, awareness of sexual violence and strategies to decrease the incidence of sexual assault; and

- Congress supports the goals and ideals of National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.

The resolution lists a number of findings including:

- “On average, a person is sexually assaulted in the United States every two-and-a-half minutes;
- “The Department of Justice reports that 191,670 people in the United States were sexually assaulted in 2005;
- “1 in 6 women and 1 in 33 men have been victims of rape or attempted rape;
- “The Department of Defense received 2,688 reports of sexual assault involving members of the Armed Forces in fiscal year 2007;
- “Children and young adults are most at risk of sexual assault, as 44 percent of sexual assault victims are under the age of 18, and 80 percent are under the age of 30;
- “Sexual assault affects women, men, and children of all racial, social, religious, age, ethnic, and economic groups in the United States;
- “Only 41 percent of sexual assault victims pursue prosecution by reporting their attack to law enforcement agencies;
- “Two-thirds of sexual crimes are committed by persons who are not strangers to the victims;
- “Sexual assault survivors suffer emotional scars long after the physical scars have healed;
- “Prevention education programs carried out by rape crisis and women's health centers have the potential to reduce the prevalence of sexual assault in their communities;
- “Because of recent advances in DNA technology, law enforcement agencies have the potential to identify the rapists in tens of thousands of unsolved rape cases;
- “Aggressive prosecution can incarcerate rapists and therefore prevent them from committing further crimes;
- “Free, confidential help is available to all survivors of sexual assault through the National Sexual Assault Hotline, more than 1,000 rape crisis centers across the United States, and other organizations that provide services to assist survivors of sexual assault; and
- “April is recognized as ‘National Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.’”

**Committee Action:** H.Con.Res. 104 was introduced on April 22, 2009 and referred to the House Committee on the Judiciary. No further official action was taken.

**Administration Position:** No Statement of Administration Policy (SAP) is available.

**Cost to Taxpayers:** The resolution would not authorize any additional expenditures.

**Does the Bill Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?:** No.

**Does the Bill Contain Any New State-Government, Local-Government, or Private-Sector Mandates?:** No.



**Does the Bill Comply with House Rules Regarding Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** Though the bill contains no earmarks, and there's no accompanying committee report, the earmarks rule (House Rule XXI, Clause 9(a)) does not apply, by definition, to legislation considered under suspension of the rules.

**RSC Staff Contact:** Natalie Farr; [natalie.farr@mail.house.gov](mailto:natalie.farr@mail.house.gov) 202-226-0718.